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THE BROOKE FAMILY.

By Prof. ST. GEORGE TUCKER BROOKE, Charlestown, W. Va.

(CONTINUED.)

Gov. ROBERT BROOKE.

b. 1761 (?). d. Feb. 27, 1800.

Brooke County, now West Virginia, was named in honor of Governor Brooke. In the "Executive Letter Book" and "Journal of Council," Virginia State Library, is much of interest as to his official acts; pages 16-17 of the former is "Circular to the Brigadier-Generals"; pages 24, 26 to Patrick Henry; pages 42, 43 to British Consul; page 61 to "George Washington, Esq., President of the United States"; page 75 to Secretary of State, "On State Sovereignty"; pages 115, 116 to Jefferson, &c., &c. While Attorney-General, Governor Robert Brooke had as a law student in his office Henry Clay. This mistake is often made of naming Judge Francis T. Brooke as Henry Clay's teacher; even General Dabney Maury falls into this error in his book. A letter from Mr. Clay to Judge Francis T. Brooke, written from Kentucky not quite two years after Governor Brooke's death, shows in what light he viewed the Governor's instructions, &c. It is as follows:

Lexington, Ky., Dec'r 30, 1801.

To (Judge) Francis T. Brooke:

What has become of the son of my much regretted friend, your brother? I feel myself under obligations of gratitude to the father which I should be happy of having an opportunity of discharging to the son. What is the progress he has made in his education? We have in this place an University in a very flourishing condition. Can you spare him to me in this country for two or three years? I live at a short distance from the buildings, have a small family and need not add that from the cheapness of living in this Country his expense to me would be extremely inconsiderable. We have, too, a distant hope of getting Mr. Madison from William & Mary to take the management of our Seminary. Be pleased to let me hear from you on this subject.

H. CLAY. (a)

^aFrom Parton's *Private Correspondence of Henry Clay*, p. 10. See also Colton's *Life of Clay*, p. —. The late Mr. Henry L. Brooke told this writer that when Mr. Brooke went to Washington on private business, about 1850, when Henry Clay was at the zenith of his fame, he registered in the National Hotel as "H. L. Brooke, Richmond, Va." Mr. Clay saw the name on the register, found Mr. Brooke, introduced himself and asked whether he was a relative of the late Governor Brooke. Mr. Brooke replied that he was a nephew. Thereupon Mr. Clay expressed his gratitude to Governor Brooke for what he had done for him when he was an impecunious young man and during the whole visit to Washington, Mr. Clay showed Mr. Brooke great kindness and consideration only because he was a nephew of Governor Brooke.



**MRS. ELEANOR CARROLL BRENT,
WIFE OF WILLIAM BRENT OF "RICHLAND."**

Governor Brooke's only child, Richard, did not go to Kentucky, but became a merchant in Richmond. He was Captain of one of the military companies in the city at the time of Lafayette's visit, in 1824, and took a prominent part in welcoming the Marquis. Born August 14, 1787, he died in February, 1827, a young man still, as his father before him. His only son was Robert T. Brooke, who was so long Treasurer of the Virginia Historical Society.

"Uncle Frank (Judge F. T. B.) used frequently to tell my father (Mr. Robert T. Brooke) that if Governor Robert Brooke had lived twenty years longer he would have won distinction second to that of few public men in the United States. Robert was the most eloquent mortal I ever listened to," he would say. Whence that eloquence? But whence the eloquence of Patrick Henry? He must have inherited it from somebody or from a fusion of several somebodies. We know the family names (the patronymics) of Governor Robert Brooke's lineal ancestors, except of one, viz., Brooke, Booth, Underwood, Taliaferro, Smith, Grymes, Thornton, Savage, Hay, Wade *et al.* But we do not know the maiden name (patronymic) of Governor Brooke's paternal grandmother. Perhaps that eloquence came from or through her. This makes it interesting to learn who was that grandmother. (b) Judge Brooke tells us that when he, at the age of seventeen years, commanded his company at Staunton, Va., just after the Legislature recovered from their fright of Tarleton and returned to that town, he heard speak on the floors of the Legislature *Patrick Henry*, Richard Henry Lee, George Nicholas "and my neighbour, Mann Page, of Mansfield." He had heard Patrick Henry before in a case of breach of marriage contract in Fredericksburg. During his long life, Judge Brooke must have heard all the great speakers of Virginia in his time. There is no doubt that he frequently declared to grand nephew, the late Mr. Robert T. Brooke, that Governor Brooke "was the most eloquent man he had ever listened to." In view of the above stated facts, after allowing all just discounts for the exaggeration of a fond brother, we must believe that Governor Brooke was a public speaker of power and eloquence. His power and eloquence as a public speaker added to his merits as a public character; as a private gentleman he seems to have been exemplary.

NOTE 1.—Apropos the age of Robert and three of his brothers, see the biographical sketch of his brother, Dr. Laurence Brooke, of the Bon Homme Richard fame, this Magazine *post.* His younger twin brothers and his younger first cousin, Edmund Brooke, were first lieu-

^b Her Christian name was Phebe and also was the Christian name of the wife of her husband's maternal uncle, Humphrey Booth, Jr. This Magazine, April 1902, p. 436.

tenants in Col. Charles Harrison's (c) regiment of artillery, and were already with the army; but Robert had no time to waste on a commission; he, aged nineteen years, made haste to buy a horse and enlist as a private soldier in a company of cavalry. He had no independent means so far as we know; therefore, it is more than probably that his father gave him that cavalry horse. Our only authority that he, or his father, bought a cavalry horse is an inference from the authentic statement of Judge Brooke that Robert "joined a *volunteer* troop of cavalry under Captain Larkin Smith." It is a familiar historical fact that the *regular* cavalry of the immortal Confederate armies furnished their own horses. This writer had two horses killed under him in battle and was shot off from a third within the enemy's lines in a charge of cavalry; both rider and horse were captured. The late Southern Confederacy owes this writer for two of those horses to-day. Robert and his horse were captured at Westham, in a charge of dragoons, seven miles above Richmond. This writer never heard that the State of Virginia paid Robert for his captured horse; nor *how much* in Virginia's script-paper money. Judge Brooke says: "The officers received one month's pay in paper, which was so depreciated, that I received, as a first lieutenant of artillery, thirty-three thousand and two-thirds of a thousand dollars, in lieu of thirty-three and two-thirds dollars in specie, with which I bought cloth for a coat at \$2,000 a yard and \$1,500 for the buttons.

"Nothing but the spirit of the age would have induced any one to receive money so depreciated; but we were willing to take anything our country could give." He was on the Continental line; Robert was a Virginia volunteer. Richard Brooke, of Smithfield, had, all at the same time, four infant sons in the military service of the United States in that ever-glorious war. Those four infant brothers and their infant first cousin, Edmund Brooke, had as fellow-soldiers (d) their infant full second cousin, Humphrey Brooke, who, at the age of sixteen years, enlisted as private soldier in infantry August, 1777; he enlisted as a private soldier in the same regiment of artillery in which his three infant cousins were first lieutenants, August, 1778; but he was a volunteer aid-de-camp in the battles of Yorktown and the siege of Yorktown and at the surrender of Cornwallis and his whole army, October 19, 1781. These six infants were represented in all branches of the military service in our only War of Rebellion, the infantry, the artillery, the cavalry, the staff and navy.

c Not Col. Benjamin Harrison's. This Magazine, January, 1911, p. 103.

d It is not entirely correct to speak of these six infants as fellow *soldiers*. Dr. Laurence Brooke was in the Navy under Paul Jones. See the military record of this Humphry Brooke. This Magazine, January, 1910, p. 104.

NOTE 2.—About 1795 Robert Brooke, Governor of Virginia, built his home upon Federal Hill, which looks over Sandy Bottom to Marye's Heights, a thousand yards away. Early in this century. Governor Brooke being dead, Federal Hill became the property of the family of Cobb, since of Georgia. Governor Cobb, of Georgia, and his brother, General Sylvanus Cobb, lived there as boys. In the great battle a Federal battery was placed on the lawn of Federal Hill. General Sylvanus Cobb, for the first time since his boyhood, looked again upon his old home from the stone wall at the foot of Marye's Heights. It was the last time he ever saw it, for a cannon ball from that battery tore him to pieces. "Recollections of a Virginian," by General Dabney Herndon Maury.

THE DESCENDANTS OF GOVERNOR ROBERT BROOKE.

Governor Brooke, m. 1786, Mary Ritchie, sister of Thomas Ritchie. of the Richmond *Enquirer* ("Mary Ritchie was married to William Hopper the 12th of November, 1785. William Hopper was the son of Cary Hopper, who married Sarah Cocke, the daughter of Bowler Cocke, the 30th of April, 1757. Departed this life the 14th December, 1785, William Hopper, aged 29 years"); issue, only one child, Richard Brooke, b. August 14, 1787, who m. Selina Daniel Poe. Their issue were:

(TO BE CONTINUED)

THE CHILES FAMILY IN VIRGINIA.

(Compiled by W. B. CRIDLIN, Richmond, Va.)

WALTER CHILES,³ SON OF COLONEL WALTER.

(CONTINUED.)

SECOND GENERATION.

Came to Virginia with his father, as a young man.

Served in the House of Burgesses, sessions 1658-59-60-63. (*Hening*, I, pp. 258, 322.)

In 1660-61 he was appointed, with Sir William Berkeley and others, to act during the recess of the Assembly. (*Hening*, II, p. 211.)

He was eldest son and heir-at-law of his father's estate.

He was church warden of Jamestown Parish. (*Meade's Old Churches*.)

Owned land, by grant, in James City county, bordering on the James River, in 1655 and 1661 (Land Office), and 70 acres granted him as son and heir on May 20, 1670.

He married (Mary) Page, daughter of Col. John Page, the Councillor, (*Virginia Carolorum*, p. 232), and by her had one son and a daughter, viz: John, probably named after Col. John Page, and Elizabeth, after his wife, or the paternal grandmother.